

Department Newsletter

September 10, 2022

WELCOME BACK!

We're excited to share the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) accomplishments of our Radio, Television, Film, and Theatre Arts faculty, staff, and alumni. We had an incredibly active summer!

Here are some of the RSCA accomplishments from the last few months!

Dr. Matthew Spangler

Film and Theatre Interim Department Chair Dr. Matthew Spangler's stage adaptation of Khaled Hosseini's novel *The Kite Runner* opened at the Hayes Theatre on Broadway over the summer. It runs until October 30. Link to tickets and the production [here](#).

Here is some of the press related to the play's themes of immigration and Afghan culture. [PBS NewsHour](#) (8 min); [NPR's All Things Considered](#) (5 min); [The New Yorker Magazine](#); [CNN](#) (TV 19 min); [The New York Times](#).



Olga White

Radio-Television-Film Lecturer Olga White presented at the International Conference on Communication and Media Studies: "Media and Development." Her ongoing research uses semiotic analysis to explore U.S. hegemonic culture in online communication. Specifically, the current research is focused on the FBI meme trope, and makes the argument that memes should not be studied based on when they were viral, but rather once a meme transcends going viral and becomes a persistent trope within meme culture.



**International Conference on Communication and Media Studies:
"Media and Development"**

London/Online: 2-3 July 2022
organised by
London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

Nancy Carlin



Theatre Arts Lecturer Nancy Carlin directed a production of *Deathtrap* by Ira Levin for the Jewel Theatre in Santa Cruz, July 6 - 31. Check out the review [here](#). (Pictured Julie James, Rolf Saxon, Shaun Carroll. Photo Credit: Steve DiBartolmeo).

In August, she participated in the Playwrights Foundation's [Bay Area Playwright's Festival 2022](#), playing Mich (a character based on the author) in a reading of *How To Let Your Lover Die* by Elana Dykewomon, a play about an older woman helping her partner die of dementia, supported by (and a celebration of) her Bay Area lesbian community. Life imitated art when Elana passed away from esophageal cancer just as the zoom reading of her play began. Read the article [here](#). Recordings of BAPF readings will be available online on demand for a limited one-week stream later in August.



The Power of Human Connection

HOW TO LET YOUR LOVER DIE
by Elana **DYKEWOMON**

BAY AREA PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL 2022

 Elana Dykewomon Playwright	 Tracy Ward Director	 Heather Helinsky Dramaturg	 Tiffini Hagan Production Assistant
 Gwen Loeb Susan	 Nancy Carlin Mich	 AJ Davenport Community Member	 Anne Hallinan Community Member
 Sharon Omi Community Member	 Catherine Castellanos Community Member	 Anne Darragh Community Member	

Scott Sublett



Radio-Television-Film Professor Scott Winfield Sublett recently published his essay "Is the Sondheim Style the Future of the Broadway Musical? Reflections on the Legacy of a Master," in "[The New Art Examiner](#)," an arts publication out of Cornwall, England. In it, he reviews Sondheim's contribution to musical theatre. (Pictured: Patti LuPone and Katrina Lenk in the recent, gender-swapped Broadway production of Sondheim's "Company." Publicity photo in the public domain, courtesy the production)

Xavier Burgin

In the past month, **Radio-Television-Film Lecturer Xavier Burgin** shadowed showrunner [Jordan E. Cooper](#) on Season 3 of the [The Ms. Pat Show](#) on BET+ in Atlanta. Currently, he is shadowing on Season 2 of [Sacrifice](#) on BET+. He was brought into the Paramount Viewfinder after he was nominated for an Emmy for his work on the BET+ show, [Giants](#). He is working under the tutelage of Mary Lou, whose 30+ years of experience can be found [here](#). (Photo credit: XBurgin)



Sarah Kate Anderson



This last June, **Theatre Arts Lecturer Sarah Kate Anderson** served on the faculty at the [Summer Shakespeare Intensive](#) at Shakespeare & Company's Center for Acting Training in Berkshire County Massachusetts as a text teacher and assistant to the workshop coordinators. She also worked in the nationally recognized program [Shakespeare in the Courts](#), facilitated by The Berkshire Juvenile Court System and Shakespeare & Company's Education Department, where adolescent offenders participate in a workshop on Shakespeare as an alternative to traditional disciplinary action. (Photo credit: Erica Smith)

Johnny Moreno

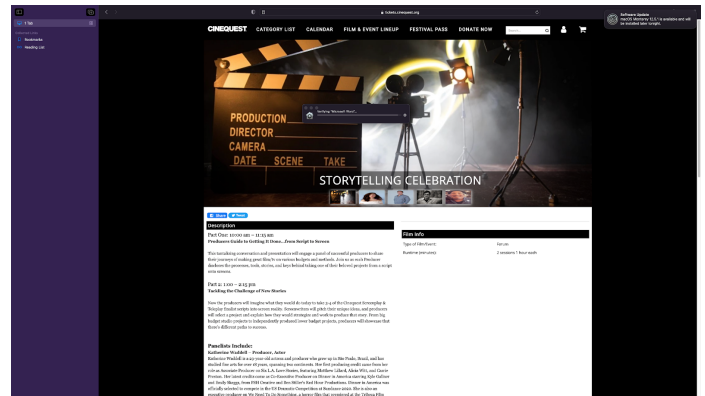


Theatre Arts Lecturer **Johnny Moreno** will be performing in *The Play That Goes Wrong* by Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields at [The San Jose Stage Company](#). This Olivier Award-winning comedy is a hilarious hybrid of Monty Python and Sherlock Holmes. **About the show:** Welcome to opening night of the Cornley University Drama

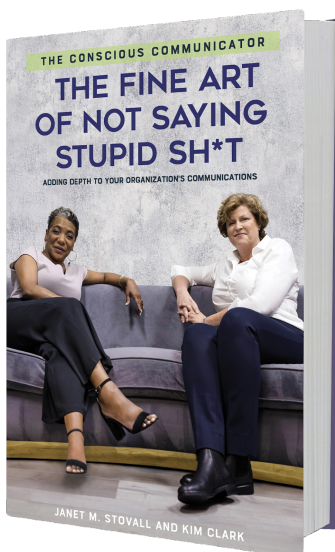
Society's newest production, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call with hilarious consequences! The show runs **September 21 - October 16, 2022**.

Barnaby Dallas

Director of Production for Film and Theatre **Barnaby Dallas** moderated a [producing panel](#) at the **Cinequest Film Festival** on August 20, 2022. The Panel was held in two parts—*Part One: Producers Guide to Getting It Done...from Script to Screen* and *Tackling the Challenge of New Stories*.



Kim Clark



Radio-Television-Film Lecturer **Kim Clark's** book (co-authored with Janet M. Stovall), [The Conscious Communicator: The Fine Art of Not Saying Stupid Sh*T](#) is coming out soon. Hosted by Staffbase, Kim was on LinkedIn in Live! on August 24 to discuss her book and how to build a community of conscious communicators, use the DEPTH model to analyze communications before your organization gets in trouble, and proactive, inclusive and socially aware communications and work with hesitant leaders. Kim, with Dr. Sam, also hosted a webinar “Using a Lens of Equity in Your Marketing” on how DEI practitioners can work with marketing & communication departments to assure companies are benign equitable in their marketing.

Courtney Flores



Theatre Arts Lecturer Courtney Flores designed the costumes for the West Coast Premiere of ***Wives*** by Jaclyn Backhaus for [Aurora Theatre Company](#) in Berkeley, California. ***Wives*** ran from June 24 - July 24, 2022. The show was directed by Lavina Jadhvani. **About the Show:** "From Hemingway's widow to a maharani in Rajasthan, from 16th century France to the campus of Oxbridge University today, the Great Men are left behind as their wives claim center stage in this irreverent celebration of female capability and power. Can Catherine de' Medici, queen to Henri II of France, rise above her rivalry with Henri's

mistress, Diane de Poitiers? Will Hemingway's death bring his former wives together or drive them apart? Can a pact between a maharaja, his wife, and a witch survive the forces of British imperialism? Can a new student club devoted to witchcraft conjure a spell to manifest a new way of being in the world? Aurora is proud to present the West Coast premiere of this riotous and powerful story by the extraordinary playwright Jaclyn Backhaus." - Aurora Theatre Company. *(Photos by Kevin Berne)*



Teresa Veramendi



An excerpt from **Theatre Arts Lecturer Teresa Veramendi's** 2018 documentary play "**Santuario|Sanctuary**" will be published in the upcoming Fall/Winter 2022-23 issue of the [Chicana/Latina Studies Journal](#). Veramendi was also awarded the Norma Elia Cantú Award in Creative Writing, which highlights exceptional writing by diverse authors in the journal. The bilingual theatre piece follows the parallel and divergent experiences of youth and monarch butterflies on their migrations across the USA-Mexico border. To create the piece, Veramendi and her collaborators conducted over 35 interviews in Colorado, Illinois, California, Texas, and

Mexico with documented and undocumented immigrants, Mexican and U.S. citizens, law enforcement, volunteers, nuns, and conservationists. *(Photography by Brian Miller)*

Kirsten Brandt



Theatre Arts Assistant Professor and Associate Chair Kirsten Brandt

directed *An Iliad* by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare based on Homer's *The Iliad*, translated by Robert Fagles, at the [Jewel Theatre](#) in Santa Cruz in May/June 2022. Starring Patty Gallagher as *The Poet* and accompanied by musician Jake Sorgen, this one-person performance throws us right into the conflicts of the Trojan War. The ancient world is presented side by side with the present day resulting in an intense and intimate view on the

horrors and costs of war. **Theatre Arts student Iliana Karbowski** served as the assistant director on the production.

(Photo credit: Steve DiMartolomeo)

Additionally, Brandt's new play, *Grendel's Mother*, received a staged reading at the [Festival of Monsters 2022](#), part of the [Center for Monster Studies](#). *Grendel's Mother* reframes the Old English poem *Beowulf* through feminist and decolonial lenses. The reading starred Patty Gallagher as "Grendel's Mother", Kinan Valdez as "Beowulf," with Artis Anderson, Zoe Adams and Abi Coomes as "The Dísir."

(Photo credit: Farhana Basha)



Erica Smith

Film and Theatre Administrative Support Assistant Erica Smith attended Shakespeare & Company's Summer month-long actor training intensive program in Lenox, Massachusetts. Each day was scheduled with twelve hours of activities that were mostly movement-based, such as: physical awareness, voice, movement, Elizabethan dance, and stage violence. Being on this schedule for six days a week for four weeks was exhausting but left Erica in fantastic physical shape. Her initial goals were to strengthen her confidence as an actor and motivate herself out of a pandemic slump by reigniting her passion for acting, and Erica accomplished both. Two years in the making, Erica says that her getting to and completing this intensive is the thing she is most proud of to date.



Photo Detail: Erica Smith as Lady Anne, publicly lamenting over her father-in-law King Henry VI's corpse (Kierstan Conway) in Act 1, Scene 2 of Richard III. Due to the outlaw of lamentation rights, this was an act of radical truth-telling to seek justice for his murder against the culprit: the infamous, ever-manipulative Richard.

Nikole Marie Abrego



Film and Theatre Analyst Nikole Marie Abrego was selected to join the CSU Academic Resources Conference (ARC) Board of Directors. As their [website](#) says, "The CSU Academic Resources Conference (ARC) is truly one of a kind. Each year ARC unites Academic Professionals from across the 23 California State University (CSU) campuses by bringing together Admins, Analysts, Assistants, Coordinators, and Specialists from Humboldt to San Diego at a multi-day conference to attend a variety of diversified educational and skill building sessions while networking with CSU professionals and colleagues in similar positions." She is excited to bring an important level of diversity to the board and help enhance conference operations and outcomes.

Alumni in the Spotlight

RTVF and TA alumni are working all over the world!

RTVF graduate Todd Banhazi was nominated for a 2022 Emmy Award in the category of Outstanding Cinematography For A Single-Camera Series (One Hour), for his work on HBO's, "**Winning Time: The Rise Of The Lakers Dynasty**." You can see an interview with Todd [here](#).

Erica Schwehr, Theatre Arts Class of 2012 is the Managing Director for [The Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum](#).

Heidi Nyburg, RTVF Class of 2012, has won several screenwriting competitions (Script Pipeline, LA International, and Stage 32.) She also won a mentorship with Launch Pad and made finals and/or semi-final at Page, Austin, Creative World, Final Draft and others. Her pilot, **Silicon Curve**, was featured on The Blacklist for pilots and she's had three scripts on The Red List.

Dinna Myers, Theatre Arts 1996, runs a small theatre in Gisborne, New Zealand. She will soon purchase a business that distributes theatrical rights in New Zealand.

Havish Ravipati, Minor in Theatre Arts 2010, has a supporting role in the upcoming feature film, Four Samosas.

Alumni in the Spotlight (cont.)

RTVF and TA alumni are working all over the world!

Jonathan Yani, Theatre Arts 2008, is the head of the theater program at Leigh High School in San Jose where he currently teaches Technical Theater and Project Lead The Way : Introduction To Engineering Design classes.

Elisa Camahort Page, Theatre Arts 1985, is the author of *Road Map for Revolutionaries* and the Co-founder and former COO of BlogHer. She is currently the COO of The Cru.

Jerry McAllister, Theatre Arts 1991, works as an Equity Stage Manager.

Kalyn McKenzie, Theatre Arts 2020, is a Facility Supervisor and Stagehand at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.

Nicole Verholtz, Theatre Arts 2010, teaches Art History and Film Studies at Victor Valley College in Victorville, CA.

Cherise Mantia, MA Theatre Arts, teaches Theatre Arts at Gavilan College since graduating in 2016.

Champagne Hughes, Theatre Arts 2010, received her Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology, emphasis in Drama and Sex Therapy. She is Executive Director and Board Chair of 3 nonprofits, a National Qualified Bodybuilder and currently writing a one-woman show.

Gabrielle Siera Lopex, RTVF 2018, is a freelance Production Designer and Art Director for films, music videos and commercials. She is currently launching her personal brand/production company, [Moonshine Creative Co.](#) which will also be a hub for sharing and expressing my creative ideas and building community.

Kate Kelsey, RTVF 2012, is a Production Coordinator at Sony Imageworks and is currently a Lighting Coordinator on *Spider-Man: Across-The Spider-Verse* - coming out in theaters June 2023

Amie Garcia, RTVF 2011: After graduating, Amie worked for Mavericks Studio and KSBW Action News 8 as a Video Editor and Production Assistant. She now works with Disney Streaming Services.

'Anaseini Katoa, Theatre Arts 2019, was seen recently on Broadway in *The Skin of Our Teeth* and on Disney+ in *Better Nate Than Ever*

Alumni in the Spotlight (cont.)

RTVF and TA alumni are working all over the world!

Christina Sturken, Theatre Arts 2012, is a full-time Production Coordinator for Red Barn Productions and a freelance Stage Manager and Props Designer.

Adam Sessa, Theatre Arts 2012, is now running/directing a non-profit children's repertory and theatre program called LaBelle Repertory Theatre, a part of a dance and performing arts company called LaBelle Performing Arts in Pensacola, FL.

Matt Regan, Theatre Arts 2018, has performed with City Lights, The Tabard Theatre, Sunnyvale Community Players, and More Mas Marami.

Paul Manchester, Theatre Arts 1987, has had a varied and illustrious career in the performing arts which has included set design, scene painting, creating miniatures, puppet building, mural and decorative painting and 2D animation. Currently, Paul creates animation art and focuses on his own projects: writing, painting, and some animation.

UPCOMING SHOWS

Passage by Christopher Chen and directed by Scott Cummins runs October 20-22 in the Hal Todd Studio Theatre. To purchase tickets for **Passage**, see [here](#). **THE STORY:** A riveting tale inspired by E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, PASSAGE is set in the fictional Country X, which is a neocolonial state of Country Y. B, a doctor, and F, an veteran teacher, begin to forge a bond that is tested after a fateful trip to a local attraction. An insight into how power imbalances affect personal and interpersonal dynamics across a gamut of situations.

Into the Woods written by James Lapine with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, directed by Kirsten Brandt, vocal direction by Sandra Bengochea, conducted by Dr. Fred Cohen runs in the Hammer Theatre Center November 11-12 and 16-20. To purchase tickets for **Into the Woods**, see [here](#). **THE STORY:** *Into the Woods* intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests. The main characters are taken from "Little Red Riding Hood," "Jack and the Beanstalk," "Rapunzel," and "Cinderella," as well as several others. The musical is tied together by a story involving a childless baker and his wife and their quest to begin a family, their interaction with a witch who has placed a curse on them, and their interaction with other storybook characters during their journey.